

## Town of Gaines Historian Annual Report, 2020

The historic highlights of 2020 center on the discovery of documents which were previously unavailable. A brief Independence Day article about Virginia Lattin Morrison and Gaines in 1919 was published in the Pennysaver, and on Orleans Hub. It elicited a response from Kathy Staines. She is a descendant of Albert Appleton who was Town Clerk for 40 years in the early 1900's. She loaned the Town a scrapbook her father had put together of family photos and stories. There were a number of photos from Gaines I had never seen before. I scanned everything before returning it to her. A number of photos were printed in color, and will be on display throughout the year on the bulletin board in Town Hall in 2021.

Records from the Congregational Church resurfaced and they have been gracious in allowing me to borrow them for scanning. Of particular interest to me at this point are the records from the 1840's. They give a glimpse of the arguments over the finer points of abolition, which eventually led to a split in the church in 1847. In conjunction with other documents relating to abolition in Gaines, we have rare insight into what a national movement looked like at the grass roots level.

The ledger for School District No. 2 was returned. Melissa Ierlan scanned it and gave us a CD. We now have the nitty-gritty details about when the two smaller chalkboards were installed, who the custodian was in the 1880's and how much he was paid.

In 2019, the Town was given a packet of letters from the 1860's from the Colton family to a daughter who was visiting relatives in New Jersey. Early in the year, I transcribed four of those letters and researched the people and events mentioned. The article was published on town website and Pennysaver.

In the spring, Western New York Heritage magazine sent out an email to local historians requesting articles. I replied, pointing them to an article I had written in 2019 about the possibility of Robert Anderson, Gaines' second supervisor, having run for Lieutenant Governor in the 1848 election. They liked the article, but wanted it expanded by about 800 words. The article was published in their summer issue.

For Memorial Day, the county requested information about any military monuments in Gaines. I researched and wrote a brief article about the monument in front of Town Hall which may be seen on the Orleans County Tourism Board website.

In November, the Orleans Hub published an article I wrote about the early history of historic markers in Gaines.

I wrote a letter of support for a grant for the Cobblestone Society for general maintenance and repair of a number of buildings.

This year, I received nine requests for genealogical information, and three requests for information on buildings in Gaines.

Respectfully submitted,

--Adrienne Kirby

